

**Page Denied**

13 October 1960

*Handwritten:*  
 13 October 1960  
 HEC

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ILLEGIB

5.

(a) Mr. Campbell's letter of 30 September which says HEC cannot increase the level of Moscow foreign language coverage. It is evident that FBIS will have to accept this. FOS is studying what FBIS would need in the way of personnel and facilities to maintain the percentages of Moscow and Peking foreign language coverage desired by HEC. Sheringham need not be informed of this.

(b) Texting versus summarizing. Some compromise may be possible to reconcile HEC and FBIS views.

(c) Classification of Communist Regional items. FBIS can handle these "Official Use Only", especially the economic items, if HEC insists. [redacted] said that HEC does not release FBIS regional items, apparently at our request. If so, the FBIS position is not consistent. STAT

(d) Latin American coverage. FBIS can do little to meet HEC's desire for more voids coverage. A solution may be to persuade HEC to accept Prensa Latina.

(e) Tass Cyrillic Coverage. It was agreed that there is no point in asking HEC again to give us any of this material since they maintain the position that they do not cover it. However, Mr. McPherson thinks we might ask them to inform us of the existence of such services if they stumble across any new ones in the future. This is a sensitive subject with HEC, and it may not be wise even to ask for this much at this time. STAT

(f) Chinese Regional Coverage. Sheringham will discuss this in Chinese and FBIS will compile up-to-date information. [redacted] will ask FID about the future availability of Chinese newspapers in Hong Kong. The British apparently think they are going to be cut off, and according to Mr. McPherson this is why the British want more regional coverage. ILLEGIB

(g) HEC Requirements List. FBIS has not been given a revision of the HEC requirements list in several years. This is useful in guiding the FBIS field editors in selecting items for HEC and this fact may be mentioned to Sheringham.

cc: Anderson, Margenroth, Hall, Battey, McPherson/Baptist

12 October 1960

OVERALL COVERAGE FBIS-BBC

| <u>BBC</u>     | <u>VOICE</u> hrs/day | <u>PRESS</u> hrs/day     |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| November 1955  | 127.0                | 104.0                    |
| September 1960 | 127.0 No change      | 89.0 <u>Decrease 16%</u> |

FBIS

|                |                           |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| November 1955  | 247.46*                   | 205.75                    |
| September 1960 | 273.5 <u>Increase 10%</u> | 317.3 <u>Increase 49%</u> |

\*Includes estimated EST 25 hours of scrutiny of French monitoring service material at Saigon

MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE FBIS-BBCBBC

|                     |            |                     |
|---------------------|------------|---------------------|
| January 1956        | 380 hrs/wk | <u>Increase 14%</u> |
| Late September 1960 | 433 " "    |                     |

FBIS

|                     |            |                       |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| November 1955       | 200 hrs/wk | <u>Increase 32.5%</u> |
| Late September 1960 | 265 " "    |                       |

Chief, Editorial Branch

12 October 1960

Chief, Wire Service Section

Discussions with Mr. John Sheringham of the BBC

Detailed discussions were held with Mr. Sheringham on Thursday, Oct. 6. Present during some or all of the exchanges of opinion were [redacted] and the undersigned. The following paragraphs, divided by subject, indicate the points made.

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I. Transliteration of Soviet non-Russian Vernaculars

Our desire to achieve common agreement with the BBC on the transliteration of Soviet non-Russian vernaculars was conveyed to Mr. Sheringham. In this connection the points raised by the Deputy Chief of the Mediterranean Bureau were discussed, with particular note taken of the BBC's apparent preference for transliteration from the vernacular. The standard U.S. intelligence community practice favored by FRIS is to transliterate from the Cyrillic.

Mr. Sheringham assured us that the BBC had no hard and fast policy on such transliteration and would certainly be willing to give consideration to a general policy of transliterating from the Cyrillic. He did, however, question the value of transliterating the Baltic tongues--Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian--from the Cyrillic, considering that these languages are written with a Latin alphabet. The use of an intermediary transliteration process would inevitably create variants from the correct original.

The Technical Information Unit's position on this is that the only available information in Washington on the Baltic countries comes from Russian-language sources, and that sanction for an exception insofar as Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian are concerned would create difficulties in identification. It is not at all certain that BBC will buy this part of our proposal, since Sheringham says vernacular newspapers are easily available in Britain and at the various monitoring stations.

II. Coordination of Requirements through Washington

Mr. Sheringham emphasized the very special nature of the relationship between Kyrenia and Caversham and said that any policy which made Washington an intermediary for all coordination with the Mediterranean Bureau would impair that relationship.

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**SUBJECT:** Discussions with Mr. John Sheringham of the EBC.

He said that as he understood it all requirements levied on Kyrenia are concerned with coverage assigned to or shared with that Bureau, that frequently rapid adjustments to developing situations must be made and that only Kyrenia can give the necessary prompt consideration and response to EBC queries or requests. He said that if the EBC desired to have the Mediterranean Bureau perform some service which was not within the latter's formal coverage commitment, such a request would of course be cleared with headquarters.

FBIS generally has no quarrel with any exchange between the EBC and Kyrenia related to the coordination of efforts on shared coverage, or where an understanding exists that one will assume certain aspects of coverage in emergencies. Certainly, the Mediterranean Bureau should feel free, when such requests are made, to evaluate its own potential and resources and to seek headquarters concurrence when acquiescence means the curtailment of other normal services. However, FBIS is concerned about processing commitments imposed on the Mediterranean Bureau as a matter of inherent right which seriously strain the Bureau's resources. As an example, the EBC's interest in all monitored references to British influence and Britain's role in Africa is of course not shared by FBIS. As a consequence, the Bureau has the choice of filing a lot of unwanted paper to headquarters, of filing two versions processed differently in accordance with the different needs, or of filing a great deal of material only to the EBC.

Sheringham thought the whole question of coordinating requirements should be thoroughly discussed at the next official coordination meeting between FBIS and the EBC.

### **III. Use of EXCERPTS rather than SUMMARY**

The EBC and FBIS have virtually reversed positions during the last five years. In the early 50's FBIS was committed to complete texts or verbatim excerpts; the EBC reports consisted almost exclusively of summaries. The tremendous expansion of world broadcasting has forced FBIS to recommend and sanction compression, either through summarization or the middle ground of using summaries with quotations. The EBC, on the other hand, now insists, through Mr. Sheringham, that its consumers need verbatim texts or textual segments and that summaries are "useless."

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SUBJECT: Discussions with Mr. John Sheringham of the BBC

It is Mr. Sheringham's opinion that much of the material now being filed as "summary" is in reality a series of "excerpts" with occasional words or phrases deleted or paraphrased. He is firmly convinced that these "summaries" could be labeled "excerpts" if the use of dots within sentences was sanctioned to indicate the omission of such words or phrases. He does not think that some sort of transitional paraphrase would be needed to make the item make consecutive sense.

We are not in full agreement on this aspect. Admittedly much of the material that appears in "summaries" is verbatim. We have encouraged monitors and editors to use quotation marks within such summaries to indicate pertinent segments. But the cornerstone of the use of a "summary with quotations" is to quote only those segments worth quoting and to use paraphrase or unquoted verbatim segments for transitional material and marginal statements. Whatever its intention may be the use of quotation marks within a summary inevitably draws attention to those segments. The use of quotation marks to indicate all the portions that could be rendered verbatim would lend a tremendous element of distortion to the item. Of course, in "excerpts" or in "texts" everything is verbatim so the reader can decide for himself what particular points are pertinent.

We think that the "summary with quotations" is an ideal device (BBC thought so too years ago) to present material in capsule form without loss of essence and yet provide a means to indicate the verbatim accuracy of individual portions. We are not convinced that our monitor's summaries are in virtually all cases (as Mr. Sheringham contends) actually excerpts which will stand alone merely by inserting dots where words or phrases have been omitted. Mr. Sheringham insists that it would be no more work for the monitors to label these "excerpts." He will study this problem with the monitors during the course of his tour and will then make further recommendations.

For our part we have assured Mr. Sheringham that we would have no objection to the use of dots within individual sentences in "excerpts" if it can be demonstrated that this would involve no additional work for our monitors and editors. This would entail a minor revision in our definition of excerpts as included in the EDITORIAL HANDBOOK but this could be done. Should such an agreement be reached, the field would file excerpts with the dots. The DAILY REPORT editor would have two choices: He could retain the dots and the label "excerpts," or he could close up the sentences, and label the item "summary" or "summary with quotations." In the latter case he would inclose pertinent segments within quotation marks.

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**SUBJECT: Discussions with Mr. John Sheringham of the EDC**

**IV. Classification of Soviet Regional Broadcasts**

The EDC, according to Mr. Sheringham, continues to be concerned about our general philosophy of declassifying materials from the Soviet regional stations. He states categorically that there is in existence a government-level agreement between the United States and Britain whereby broadcast material from the regional stations bearing on "Soviet military potential" would be classified **CONFIDENTIAL**. In trying to probe for the rationale behind this concern, it was established that the EDC considers there is some advantage in keeping the Soviet Union in the dark concerning the extent of our coverage and our monitoring.

Several points need to be made in this connection:

- A. Most of the material included in the "war potential" category would normally not be included in our **USSR/EE** volume, but would be published as "economic abstracts" on cards designated **OFFICIAL USE ONLY**. Those occasional items which are published in the book are included on **OFFICIAL USE ONLY** pages (that is they are not included in the "white book"), but the individual items are then labeled **UNCLASSIFIED**. It is interesting to note in this connection that Mr. Sheringham seemed unconcerned about those few items not bearing on **USSR** war potential which we publish from the regionals, even though these are equally revealing as to the extent of our monitoring of these stations.
- B. The "economic abstracts" which are now published for **OFFICIAL USE ONLY** used to be issued in a **CONFIDENTIAL** weekly booklet in the late 40's and early 50's. But at that time the material was also coded according to Department of Defense categories which clearly made the material sensitive. Although the present procedure calls for the use of no designation higher than **OFFICIAL USE ONLY**, it is conceivable that this is equivalent to the British concept of **CONFIDENTIAL** which has in the past been equated with U.S. **RESTRICTED** or **OFFICIAL USE ONLY**.
- C. It appears that most of the EDC's objections would be met merely by labeling all Soviet regional material **OFFICIAL USE ONLY**. This could easily be done under the proposed revision of the **DAILY REPORT**.

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**SUBJECT: Discussions with Mr. John Sheringham of the EBC**

**V. Latin American Coverage**

Although the EBC publishes no digest or review of Latin American broadcasts there is considerable interest in materials from that area, which are of primary use to the EBC news room. Here too the EBC would prefer more texts and excerpts and less summaries, although Mr. Sheringham recognized the peculiar difficulties involved in texting any of Castro's pronouncements. The EBC generally would like more processing from voice broadcasts since it cannot use the relatively productive press transmissions by PIRENA LATINA and AFP from that area.

**VI. Coverage of Scandinavia**

Mr. Sheringham was not willing to admit that coverage of Scandinavia was insufficient, although it was pointed out to him that we seldom obtain even the press reviews broadcast by the various radios. The EBC monitors only a limited sample of the transmissions from this area, and if the monitored sample is not useful no further effort is undertaken. Sheringham implied, if he did not say it in so many words, that EBC's blanket coverage of Moscow inevitably affects their ability to cover many non-bloc broadcasts.

**VII. Coverage of Moscow in German**

Sheringham explained why the resumption of coverage of Moscow in German would force the EBC to drop coverage of Moscow in Serbo-Croat, Dutch and Portuguese. Strange as it seems, the difficulty arises from the need to monitor Moscow in French. EBC's monitors newly assigned to cover Moscow in German are the same people who handled Moscow in French when German was covered by the German Bureau. With EBC resuming its coverage of German, the French broadcasts will have to be handled by monitors who ostensibly cover Serbo-Croat, Dutch and Portuguese. EBC's resources, in his opinion, are spread so thin, with most monitors possessing various linguistic abilities, that any new assumption of coverage inevitably affects coverage of other broadcasts and other languages.

**FII:** [ ] who is well informed concerning the abilities of EBC's Serbo-Croat monitors, says he knows of none who is equipped to handle French.

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**SUBJECT: Discussions with Mr. John Sheringham of the BBC**

**VIII. Coverage of Chinese Regionals**

The BBC is not satisfied with our present coverage of the Chinese Communist regional stations. It is their opinion, which we share, that much valuable material could be obtained from these broadcasts. However, our present commitments to cover Chinese Hellschreiber, the home service, and various international service broadcasts simply do not permit more than a token coverage of these area transmissions, although at least 100 can be heard seasonally on Okinawa with good signals. Certainly with the growing threat from Communist China and the need for intelligence information concerning (A) its economic development, (B) its success in conditioning the population, and (C) the problems which confront the administration, a sizeable increase in coverage of these transmissions would be well worthwhile. It seems that this is one area where further expenditures for personnel and equipment, if possible, would bring a rich return.

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12 Oct 60

## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Mr. John Sheringham of the BBC and [ ] of the  
ME/WI/LA Section, Daily Report, FBID

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In an informal discussion of coverage problems mutual to BBC and FBIS Middle East and African sections, Mr. Sheringham outlined the proposed plan of the BBC operation in Nairobi.

The original effort will be on Arabic-Swahili and Arabic-Somali languages. Preliminary monitoring will concentrate on Sudan, Yemen, the Somali Republic and Ethiopia, the latter in Amharic if a monitor of that language can be found. The Cairo radio will be monitored in Swahili, Somali, and Amharic. It is hoped that Jebouti can be heard. All India and Pakistan broadcasts to East Africa in Swahili will be monitored and attempts will be made to find an Urdu monitor for those programs. The British territories in Africa will be sampled in English for news content only. It is expected that two news bulletins daily will be monitored. Also it is anticipated that efforts will be made to monitor Zanzibar broadcasts in Swahili and Arabic. It was stated by Mr. Sheringham that all broadcasts to East Africa which are capable of being monitored in that area will be concentrated in the Nairobi operation. Future adjustments between Caversham, Kyrenia, Nairobi, and the FBIS bureau at Kaduna will alter the situation as developments occur. It was also suggested that the Nairobi operation could well handle broadcasts from Eastern Nairobi while the FBIS could concentrate on Hausa and French to mutual advantage.

Mr. Sheringham stated in regard to BBC Scandinavian monitoring that the FBIS define very closely what it wants and notify the London Bureau of those requirements. He thought it quite possible that the Finnish press review for example, and some other Scandinavian press reviews could be supplied quite handily without damage to Moscow broadcasts in the Scandinavian tongue. [ ] said that he would make an inquiry into the requirements of such interested consumers such as OCI and others and also would confer with [ ] following which recommendations would be made to the London Bureau-BBC. The only other topic of mutual concern in this area was the Latin American coverage and no new developments were suggested by either, except that Mr. Sheringham was of the opinion that the BBC might well agree to handle PRENSA LATINA on the same basis as it now handles TASS and NORA or as FBIS would label it with no classification. It was further hinted at by Mr. Sheringham that the British felt the Caribbean situation in general would soon expand to imperil the British areas of interest in the West Indies and he thought that the BBC might explore the possibility of themselves monitoring in the future some of the shortwave broadcasts from this area such as Jamaica. While

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this was not elaborated on, it was quite obvious that the Caribbean and Latin American areas are of rapidly increasing interest to the British as well as to ourselves.

Previously Mr. Sheringham had discussed area coverage with

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3 October 1960

BBU F.O.

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

The following orientation schedule is for Mr. John Sheringham, BBC Monitoring Service representative, who will be visiting FBIS Headquarters 5-15 October. While this schedule has the concurrence of the various Branch Chiefs and Staff Officers concerned, it must be considered tentative until Mr. Sheringham's actual arrival, at which time certain adjustments may have to be made.

|                         |      |  |
|-------------------------|------|--|
| Wednesday<br>5 October  | 1050 | Arrives National Airport<br>(Battey will meet plane) |
|                         | 1330 | Chief, FBIS; AD/O                                    |
|                         | 1500 | Introduction to Branch Chiefs and<br>Staff Officers  |
| Thursday<br>6 October   | 0915 | Editorial Briefing                                   |
|                         | 0945 | Editorial Branch                                     |
| Friday<br>7 October     | 0915 | Editorial Briefing                                   |
|                         | 0945 | Editorial Branch                                     |
| Monday<br>10 October    | 1000 | East Coast Bureau                                    |
| Tuesday<br>11 October   | 0915 | Editorial Briefing                                   |
|                         | 0945 | Field Operations Staff, BIS                          |
|                         | 1330 | Open   |
| Wednesday<br>12 October |      | Open   |
| Thursday<br>13 October  | 0915 | Editorial Briefing                                   |
|                         | 0945 | Radio Propaganda Branch                              |
| Friday<br>14 October    | 0915 | Editorial Briefing                                   |
|                         | 0945 | Liaison & Requirements Staff                         |
|                         | 1100 | Engineering Staff                                    |
|                         | 1330 | Open   |
|                         | 1500 | Chief, FBIS; AD/O                                    |